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hitherto been observed in Indiana. I cannot, of course, say anything definite about this last statement; but my opinion is that Franklin's Gull must occasionally be seen in Indiana along Lake Michigan. This gull is small, with a black head and neck; the bill, also, of the specimen I saw was black. The bird is not timid and may be approached within a few rods.

I have now completed the first part of my attempt to prove that birds can be identified without shooting them. So far I have spoken of my own efforts in this direction, and now it remains for me to say what was done by those who accompanied me on my bird trips. A number of the students at Notre Dame have given some attention to the study of bird life, and they have done remarkably well, I think, for the little time they have devoted to the pursuit. Several young men went out with me occasionally in the springs of 1917 and 1918, and two of them made the acquaintance of 90 species of birds. Among these there were about twenty warblers. Now, every student of birds knows that the warbler family is one of the most difficult to learn. Still the students that observed under my direction did not fail to identify all the warblers we found. And to test their knowledge, I would often ask them to name a certain species of warbler we saw, such as, the female Black-poll, and in time they could succeed in doing it.

I have now set down facts enough, I think, to disprove Mr. Barrow's contention that no person without killing birds can identify *all* the species in his vicinity. Perhaps there is not absolute certainty in every case I have mentioned. But even if this were so, I still hold that most birds, if not all, can be identified by an experienced observer with nothing but a pair of good field glasses.

"Fairy Circles."

BY J. A. NIEUWLAND.

Attention has already been called in these pages to the fact that some species of *Myxomycetes*, notably *Physarum sinuosum*, appear in lawns in formations like the so-called "fairy circles" of some of the higher fungi. Such slime-mould "rings" have been seen annually in summer on the Notre Dame University Quadrangle for a long time. Last spring it was, however, noticed for the first time that

the "circles" are also evident early in spring by the peculiar phenomenon of rings of very much more luxuriant growth of grass in the places where the previous season's fungi grew. My attention was called to the fact by a question from one of the professors, as to the reason for more early, more rapid, and more luxuriant growth of grass in certain large ringlike formations on the lawn. Investigation of the subject revealed the fact that the development of grass was more notable in places where these *Physarum* "rings" of the previous seasons' growth had appeared.

It might seem then that these slime moulds may play not an inconsiderable part in reducing partly decomposed organic material back to a condition in which it may be more easily utilized by ordinary or chlorophyll-bearing plants.

Teratological Notes.

Specimens of the common Harebell with perfectly white flowers were found at Grand Beach, Michigan, on the Indiana side of the state boundary. They were collected on the lake side of the last dune and immediately facing the usually strong winds of the lake. The plants had the dwarfed appearance of dune specimens with unusual strong root system also characteristic of these sand grown specimens.

At Notre Dame albinos of *Lobelia syphilitica* Linn., were rather common along the marl covered shores of the lake where the water had receded only three or four seasons ago. The calyx lobes and cup were not structurally the same as in the type but the differences were mostly due to the matter of size, rather than to shape.

A specimen of *Onoclea sensibilis* was also found, during the past summer, in which a portion of a vegetative frond was changed to a sporophyll with intermediate gradations of form of pinnae. Similar cases to the two last mentioned had previously been mentioned in Am. Nat. II. p. 657 and 658.

J. A. N.